69/5.

George Weare Braikenridge.

BROOMWELL HOUSE.

No. _____

W. H. Mullens.

DESCRIPTION

AND

Natural History

OF

S. POLITO's

Collection

OF

Living Birds & Beasts.

PRICE ONE SHILLING.

DESCRIPTION,

AND

NATURAL HISTORY

OF

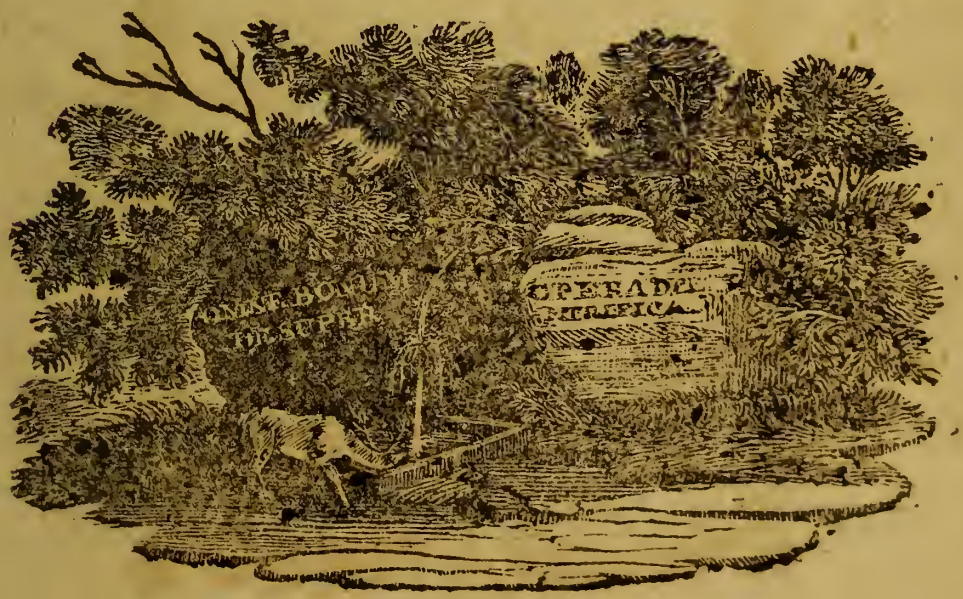
S. POLITO's COLLECTION

OF

Living Beasts and Birds.

O Lord, how manifold are thy works!
In wisdom hast thou made them all.

Psalm civ. 24.



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1803.

TO THE PUBLIC.

The Proprietor of this valuable Collection has been induced to offer the following short Treatise to the Public, at the earnest desire of many of his respectable Visitors.

He has long wished to comply with their request, but a consciousness of inability for the task has ever kept him from attempting it. The assistance of a few Friends, with his own observations, has however enabled him to bring the Work to a publication. If he has been so successful as to afford any entertainment to his Patrons and Friends, his expectations will be gratified, and his wishes accomplished.

PREFACE.

NATURAL History is the most extensive, and perhaps the most instructive and entertaining of all sciences. It is the chief source from which human knowledge is derived.

Its importance, accordingly, in the arts of life and instating the mind with just ideas of external objects, as well as of their relations to the human race, was early perceived by all nations in their progress from rudeness to refinement.

Aristotle is the only ancient writer on Zoology who merits attention; he investigated the relations and differences, which connect and distinguish the various tribes of animals.

To mark the distinctions, to investigate the relations, to ascertain the great chain that unites the numerous tribes, which people and adorn the universe, requires very superior talents.

Among those authors, whether ancient or modern, who have contributed to unfold the Philosophy of Natural History, the Count De Buffon holds a most distinguished rank. His facts are collected with judgment and fidelity; his reasonings and inferences are not only bold and inge-

nious, but adorned with all the beauties of expression, and all the charms of novelty.

Whichever way we turn our view, we shall find new subjects for our admiration and thankfulness. The larger quadrupeds are formed in general for an inoffensive life, or are subservient to the rule of man; the smaller, if mischevious, are happily limited in their powers of annoyance, by their want of courage or of strength; but happily for us, and for the inoffensive order of animals, the most savage are limited in number, and the rest are either timid or irresolute, unless when impelled by hunger, trusting in general rather to cunning than to force.

The arts of those that pursue, however, are not more various than the subtile shifts of their prey to escape destruction; and were it otherwise, the feeble race of animals would soon cease to exist, and the most ferocious would be compelled to prey upon each other, till they were utterly exterminated also.

The lion, the tiger, and other predacious animals, seldom come abroad during the day, but trust to the night for getting a supply of food. Thus man, who uses the interval of darkness as a season of repose, is not obnoxious to their attacks, and those creatures, which are the object of their pursuit, either find safety by flight, or shelter and protection by sagacity. Some place a centinel to warn them of approaching danger, and relieve each other in that station by turns; others form a phalanx for their mutual security,

and in the union of numbers find a means to counterbalance the assaults of individual strength.

Wild animals generally seek the most sequestered retreats, and shun the presence of the man, who thus reigns undisputed lord of this nether world; the weaker fly to him for protection, and he knows how to tame the most ferocious. He destroys or saves, as suits his convenience or his will; his superior power creates a desert, or peoples a wilderness with passive and obedient slaves.

Animals in a savage state are subject to few alterations, but continue for ages the same, in size, shape, and colour; yet no sooner are they subdued and taken under the care of man, than their figure, and even their very nature, is gradually changed.

Even the very appetites and habitudes of quadrupeds undergo a change, by the effects of human ingenuity. They may be taught to live on food, which in a state of nature they would reject, and to perform labours that not only evince docility and sagacity, but a desire to please.

Next to human controul, the climate seems to have the most powerful influence on quadrupeds, in augmenting or diminishing their size, and in varying their colours or their coverings. Providence in its wisdom has furnished the animals of cold countries with long warm hair; remove them to warm latitudes, and it becomes short and thin: again, transplant the natives of the tropics to the hyperborean regions, and they

speedily assume a dress adapted to the rigours of their situation.

The short account here given to the public, is intended merely as a guide to those who are pleased to honour Mr Polito's exhibition with their company, where he will give his visitors every information respecting the nature and habits of the various animals, forming this collection.

Here the inquisitive mind will be amply gratified, by the near inspection of animals, subdued from their natural ferocity by familiar intercourse with man. The means used thus to tame them, Mr Polito will give the most candid account of, and he flatters himself that the public curiosity from these circumstances, will receive the highest satisfaction.

Those who have been entertained by contemplating the surprising Curiosities of Nature assembled in this Valuable Collection, will now have an opportunity, not only of renewing the memory with objects which afforded them amusements, but, with the assistance of this little treatise, will also be enabled to communicate to their friends a portion of the delight they experienced; for next to the gratification of beholding what is beautiful or strange, is the pleasure of recounting the wonders we have seen.

Mr Polito is sorry to observe, that the cuts annexed are executed in so rude a style, as to convey but a faint idea of the animals they were intended to represent.

The descriptions also, it must be confessed, are very short, but such a work could only admit of brevity ; more he shall not say, but submit this humble production to the eye of a generous Public.

The beasts are clean, young, and healthy ; the plumage of the birds is in the highest perfection, and the whole are so well secured, as to be approached with the greatest safety.

As Mr Polito avails himself of every opportunity of increasing his Collection, a constant succession of Birds and Beasts may be expected, as he gives the most liberal prices.

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A

Natural History

OF

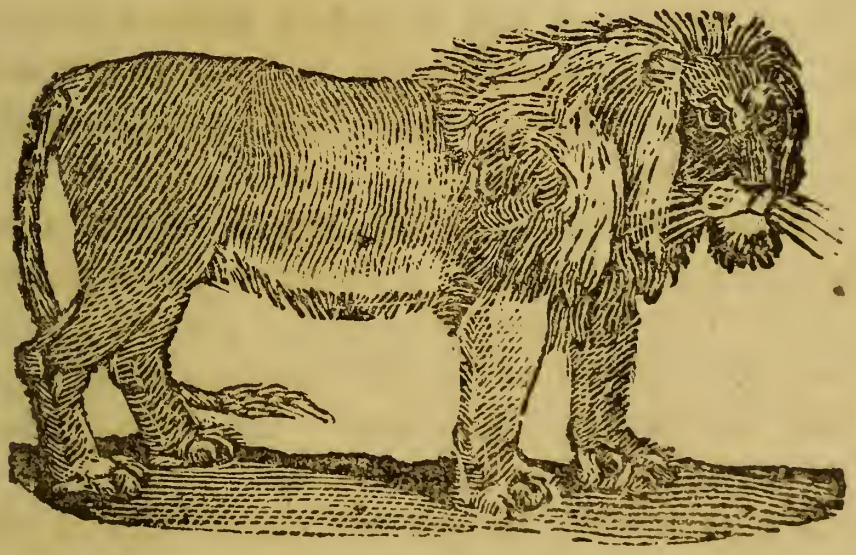
QUADRUPEDS.

FELIS.

Front teeth six, the intermediate ones equal; Grinders three on each side; Tongue set with prickles turned backwards; Claws retractile.

LION.

FELIS LEO. { *Of a pale tawny or dun colour, with long tail flowy at the tip.*



THE general colour of the full grown Lion is a pale tawny, still paler, or more inclining to white underneath, head very large, ears rounded, face covered with short or close

hair, the upper part of the head, neck, and shoulders, coated with long shaggy hair, forming a pendent mane.

On the body the hair is short and smooth; the tail is terminated by a tuft of blackish hair; his teeth are so strong, that they break large bones with perfect ease; his tongue, as in other animals of this genus, is furnished with reversed prickles, but they are so large and strong, as to be capable of lacerating the skin; the claws are retractile, not into sheaths, but only between the toes, by means of a particular articulation of the last joint; the last bone but one, by bending itself outwards, gives place to the last, which is only articulated to it, and to which the claw is fastened so as to bend itself upwards and side-ways, more easily than downwards, so that the bone, which is at the end of every toe, being almost continually bent upwards, it is not the end of the toes that rests upon the ground, but the mode of the articulation of the two last bones, and thus in walking, the claws remain elevated and retracted between the toes, those of the right paws towards the right, and those of the left towards the left side of the toes: this admirable structure is not found in the great toe, whose last joint bends only downwards, because this toe does not naturally rest upon the ground, being considerably shorter than the others.

The Lioness is much smaller, and nearly of a white colour underneath; she goes with young five months, and brings forth from three to five of the size of a half-grown kitten, which continue with their mother near a year, and attend her in hunting excursions: the young are said to be five years in arriving at maturity.

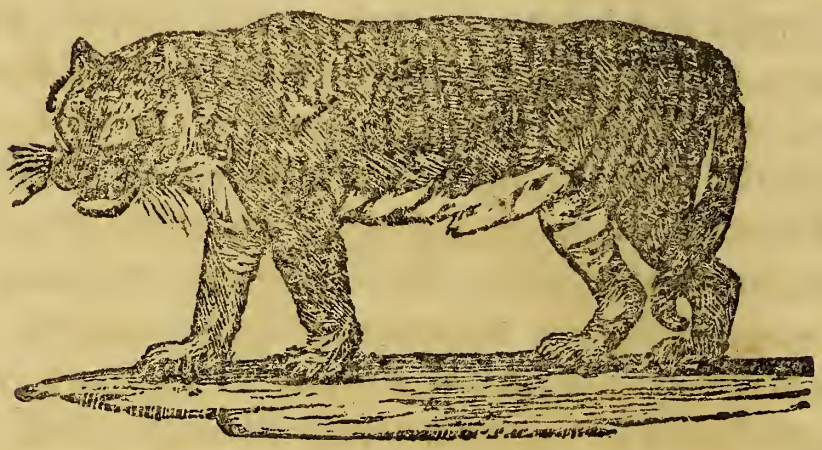
The Lion is found, though not plentifully in the hotter regions of Asia, it is however in the interior of Africa, *

* The Romans, struck with magnificent appearance of the Lion, imported them in vast numbers from Africa. Pompey the Great exhibited no less than 315 males, and 285 females in the grand circus, during his prætorship; and Mark Antony caused Lions to be yoked to his carriage and draw him through the streets of Rome.

that he exerts his greatest ravages, and reigns superior among the weaker quadrupeds. Like the tiger, he frequently conceals himself in order to spring upon his prey, bounding to the distance of a great many feet, and seizing it with his claws ; his strength is prodigious ; it has even been affirmed, that a single stroke of his paw is sufficient to break the back of a horse, and that he carries off with ease a middle-sized ox or buffalo, and that one sweep of his tail will throw a strong man to the ground. The roaring of the lion, when in quest of prey, resembles the sound of distant thunder, and being re-echoed by the rocks and mountains, appals the whole race of animals, and puts them to sudden flight ; he is commonly said to devour as much as will serve him for two or three days, and when satiated with food, to remain retired in his den, which he seldom leaves, except for the purpose of seeking his prey. The lion, says Buffon, when taken young, and brought up among domestic animals, is easily accustomed to live, and even to sport innocently with them ; he is gentle and caressing to his master, and if he sometimes resumes his natural ferocity, he seldom turns his rage against his benefactors. The anger of this animal is noble, his courage magnanimous, and his disposition grateful ; he has been often seen to despise contemptible enemies, and pardon their insults, when it was in his power to have punished them ; he has been known to spare the lives of such as were thrown to be devoured by him, to live peaceably with them, to afford them part of his subsistence, and sometimes even to want food himself, rather than deprive them of that life which his generosity had spared.

TIGER.

FELIS TIGRIS. { *With elongated tail, and body marked with long transverse streaks.*



Its colour is a deep tawny or orange yellow; the face, throat, and under side of the belly being nearly white; the whole is traversed by numerous long black stripes, forming a bold and striking contrast with the ground colour. About the face and breast, the stripes are proportionably smaller than on other parts; the tail is annulated with black, and is shorter than the body; the proportion and number of the stripes, and the more or less brightness of the ground colour, varies in different individuals. The skin is held in high esteem in all the eastern countries, and particularly in China, where the Mandarins cover their seats of justice with it. The disposition of the Tiger is fierce and sanguinary, his rapacity so greatly exceeds that of every other animal, that he is considered as the most dreadful scourge of the hotter regions of Asia; even when in a state of confinement, he occasionally exhibits marks of his natural malignity. His method of seizing his prey, is by concealing himself from view, and springing upon his victim with a roar hideous beyond conception, and tears it to pieces; he commits horrid ravages among the flocks and herds,

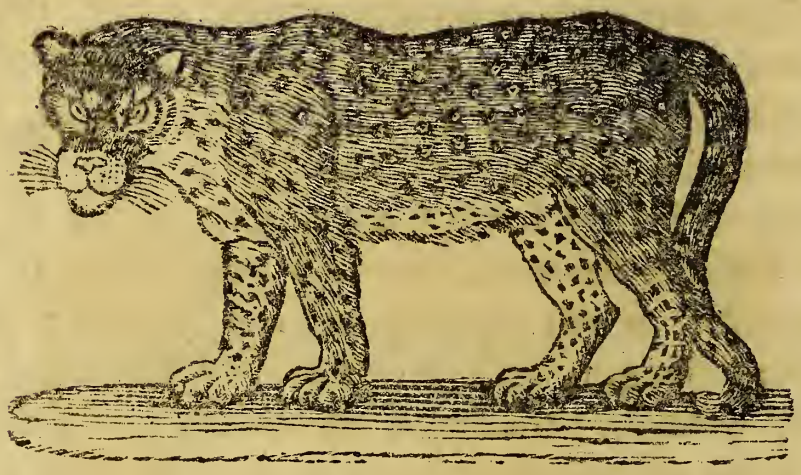
in the countries where he resides, and neither the sight nor the opposition of man, in whose flesh he is said to delight, have any power to make him desist; when undisturbed, he plunges his head into the body of the animal, and drinks large draughts of blood, the sources of which are generally exhausted before his thirst is appeased. His muscular strength is so extremely great, that he has been known to seize a buffalo, near a thousand pounds weight, and carry it off with such seeming ease, as to appear scarce an impediment to his flight.

The Tigress brings forth four or five young at a litter; she is at all times furious, but her rage rises to the utmost extremity, when robbed of her young; she then braves every danger, and pursues her plunderers, even to the very gates of buildings, on the edge of the sea, and when her hope of recovering them is lost, she expresses her agony by howlings, which excite terror wherever they reach.

The roar of the Tiger is extremely horrid; it begins by intonations and inflections, at first, deep, melancholy, and slow; presently it becomes more acute, when suddenly collecting himself, he utters a violent cry, which, together with the interruption of long tremulous sounds, make a distracting impression upon the mind. It is chiefly in the night that this is heard, when silence and darkness add to the horror, and his roarings are repeated by the echoes of the mountains.

PANTHER.

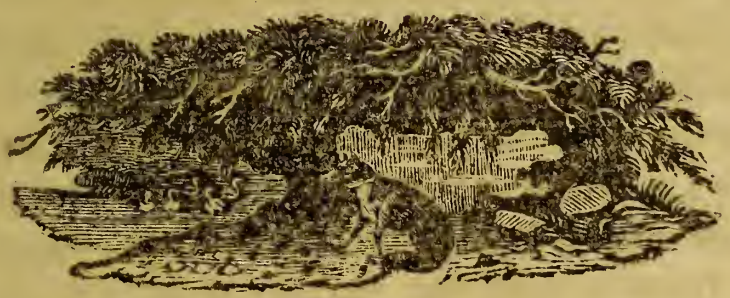
FELIS PARDUS. { *With elongated tail, and yellow body marked with orbicular spots above, and lengthened ones below.*



THE colour of the Panther is a bright and beautiful tawny yellow, thickly marked all over the upper parts of the body, shoulders, and thighs, with roundish black spots, disposed into circles, consisting of four, or five separate spots, and there is commonly a central spot in each circle; on the face and legs, the spots are single; and along the top of the back, is a row of oblong spots, which are still longer as they approach the tail; the breast and belly are whitish, the former marked with transverse dusky stripes, the latter, and the tail with large irregular black spots.

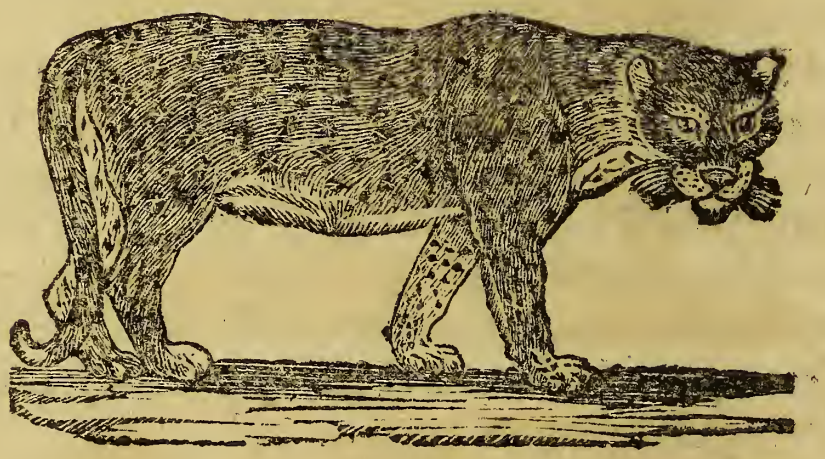
To a mere general observer, the Panther and the Leopard are so extremely alike as to be frequently mistaken for each other; the principal, and it may be safely asserted, the only permanent distinction between them, is, that the Panther is of more considerable size, and his general colour of a richer or more fulvous yellow; in general, the circular black marks are larger, and more distinct, and the black spot in the centre, is more frequently in the Panther than Leopard. The Panther is principally found in Africa, and is to that country, what the Tiger is to

Asia, with this alleviating circumstance, that it is supposed to prefer the destruction of other animals, to that of mankind; its manner of seizing its prey resembles that of the Tiger, lurking in thick forests, and by the sides of rivers, ready to spring forward upon its prey, from its place of concealment. Like most others of its genus, it is of a highly ferocious nature, scarce ever much subdued even by long confinement. As population and civilization increase, the number of the more ferocious animals gradually diminishes, and their abode is now removed far from the habitation of man. It is in the burning deserts of Africa, and the extensive forests of the hotter regions of Asia, seldom or ever trod by human feet, that the Lion, the Tiger, and the Panther, rule with despotic and uncontrouled sway. One would think, says Mr Pennant, that the Romans would have exhausted the deserts, by the numbers they drew from thence to their public spectacles; Scaurus exhibited at one time 150 Panthers, Pompey the Great 410, and Augustus 420.



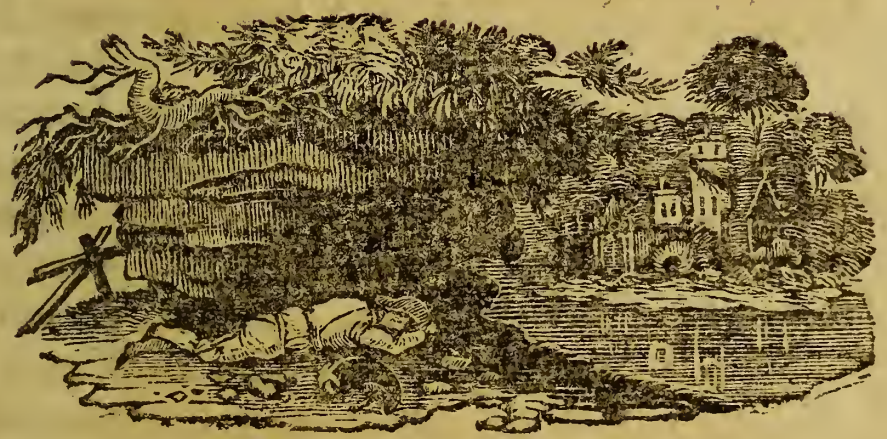
LEOPARD.

FELIS LEOPARDUS. { *With yellow body marked with sub-contiguous black spots, disposed in circles.*



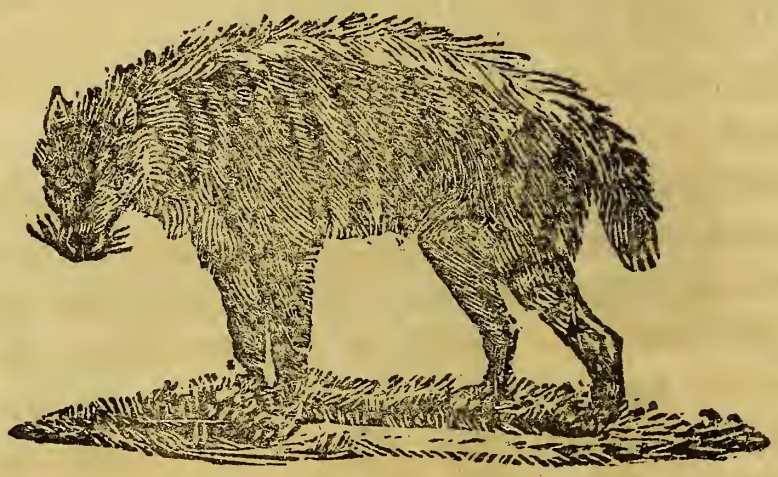
THIS animal, together with the difference mentioned before, is also distinguished by the closer disposition of the spots which form its ocellated markings. The general length from nose to tail is four feet, of the tail two and a half. It is a native of Senegal, Guinea, and other parts of Africa, occurring also in several parts of Asia. In general appearance, these animals are fierce; the eye is restless, the countenance cruel, and all the motions short and precipitate; they attack and devour whatever they meet, sparing neither man nor beast, and when the wild animals are unsufficient to satiate their cruel appetite, they descend in great numbers from their lurking places, and commit dreadful slaughter among the numerous herds of cattle, which are to be found in the plains; they tear their prey, both with their teeth and claws, and though continually devouring, their appearance is always thin and meagre.

Holborn asserts that they will not deign to touch what has been killed by any other beast; the same writer also adds, that the flesh of the Leopard is white and well-tasted, eating much better than the finest veal; it is both nourishing and delicious; that of the young, is as tender as a chicken; the skins are brought into Europe, where they are held in high estimation; some of the most beautiful selling for more than ten guineas each.



STRIPED HYÆNA.

CANIS HYÆNA. { *Pale brown, striped with black, with upright mane, naked ears, strait tail, and four-toed feet.*



THE colour of the Hyæna is a pale greyish brown, accompanied by a tawny cast, and the whole body is marked by several distant blackish transverse bands, running from the back downwards; these bands are much more numerous, as well as of a deeper colour on the legs; from the neck, along the upper part of the back, runs a strong bristly mane, the hair of which is near a span long, erect, and pointed with black; the head is broad and flat, and the eyes have the character of wildness and ferocity; the nose is black; the ears are long, sharp pointed, and nearly black; the tail is short and very full of hair; the neck is so remarkably stiff, that in looking behind, or in snatching obliquely at any object, he is obliged to move the whole body somewhat in the manner of a hog, and was hence supposed, by the ancients, to have only one bone in his neck. It is distinguished from the dog, by the greater strength of the limbs, by a remarkable fulness of the nose, and by having four toes on all the feet.

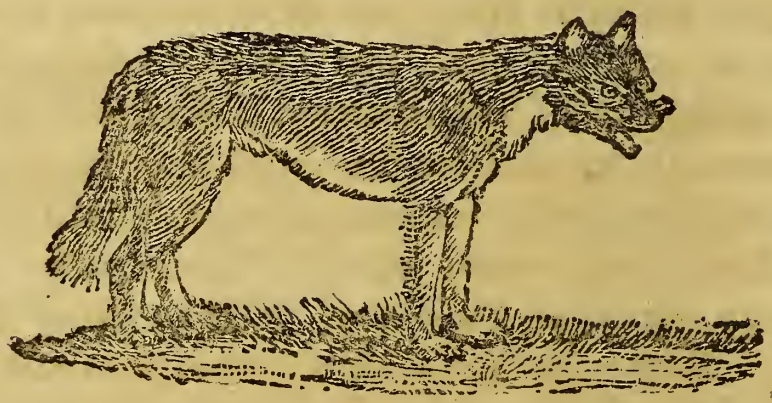
The Hyæna is a native of many parts of Asia and Africa, but by far most numerous in Abyssinia. Hyænas generally inhabit caverns and rocky places, they prowl about chiefly by night, and feed on the remains of dead animals, as well as on living prey; they attack cattle, and frequently commit great devastation among the flocks. Though not gregarious from any social principle, they sometimes assemble in troops, and follow, with dreadful assiduity, the movements of an army, through the hope of feasting upon the slaughtered bodies. In Barbary, the Hyæna feeds on succulent bulbous roots, as the fritillaria, and the tender shoots of palms, &c. has no courage by day, but flies and hides himself from man; while in Abyssinia, where he has more opportunities in indulging his appetite for animal food, he is so bold as to prowl about in the day time, and to attack with savage fury, such animals as chance may throw in his way. The voice of the Hyæna is very peculiar; its beginning seems somewhat like the moaning of the human voice, and ending like a person making a violent effort to vomit. His courage is said by some to equal his rapacity, and he will on occasion, defend himself with great obstinacy, against much larger animals. There is something, however, in his aspect, that indicates a peculiar gloomy and ferocious disposition. When the Arabs take any of these animals, they are very careful to bury the head, lest the brain, according to their superstition, should be made use of in sorcery or inchantment.

CANIS.

Cutting teeth, the upper jaw six, the lateral ones distant, the intermediate ones lobated; Canine teeth, solitary, incurvated; Grinders, six or seven.

WOLF.

CANIS LUPUS, *With tail bent inwards.*



THE general colour of the Wolf is a pale grey, with a cast of yellowish, but it varies much, both as to colour and size, in different climates.

In France and Germany, they have been found of a yellow colour, in Russia white, in Canada black, and at the Cape of Good Hope grey-striped and black. Like many other carnivorous quadrupeds, they increase in size the nearer they approach the torrid zone.

A theory has for some time prevailed, that the Wolf is the original, or stock from which the numerous varieties of the common dog have descended. It is true, that the Wolf and the dog have bred together, and that their progency have been fertile, yet this alone cannot be considered as a sufficient proof of real identity of species.

The Wolf is sufficiently distinguished from the dog, by his superior size, stronger limbs, more muscular body, and triangular face; his tail also is long, bushy, and

tiped with black and bent inwards, whilst in the dog it is generally turned toward the left side; the opening of the mouth is shorter, the jaws stronger, the teeth larger, and the eyes more obliquely placed than in the dog. The period of gestation in the Wolf is 100 days, in the dog only 60.

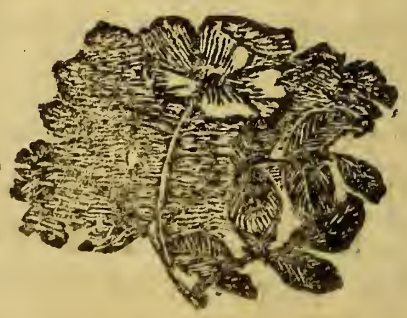
When the females are about to bring forth, they search for some concealed place in the inmost recesses of the forests; after having fixed on the spot, they make it smooth and plain for a considerable space, by tearing up with their teeth all the brambles and brushwood; they then prepare a bed of moss, and bring forth five or six young, which the mother suckles for some weeks; she then brings them mice, young hares, partridges, and living fowls which they at first play with, and then kill; when this is done, she tears them to pieces, and gives a part to each of her young.

For about six weeks they leave their den, and follow the mother, who leads them abroad to some neighbouring pool to drink; she conducts them back again, or when any danger is apprehended, obliges them to conceal themselves elsewhere. When they are attacked, she defends them with intrepidity, losing every sense of danger, and becoming perfectly furious. She never leaves them till their education is finished, and they have acquired talents for rapine.

The Wolf was formerly a native of Britain, but has been long since extirpated. The last was killed in Lochaber, by Sir Ewen Cameron, of Lochiel. In the reign of King Edgar, Wales paid an annual tribute of 300 Wolves heads.

The Wolf is alarmed at the sound of a trumpet; prefers leaping over a fence to entering the door of a sheep-fold; is poisoned by the licking vulpinus, or tree moss, and dreads the sight of a rope trailed along the ground.

The Wolf, says Buffon, is one of those animals, whose carniverous appetite is the strongest; though he has received from nature the means of gratifying his taste, though she has bestowed on him arms, craftiness, strength, and agility, yet he often dies of hunger. He is naturally dastardly, but want makes him ingenious, and necessity gives him courage. When pressed with famine, he attacks those animals that are under the protection of man. He retires during the day to his den, but issues forth in the night, and with dreadful ferocity puts every living creature to death before he chuses to depart. He sometimes attacks women, children, and even man himself, till becoming furious by excessive exertions, he frequently falls a sacrifice to pure rage and distraction. The Wolf is extremely disagreeable, his aspect is savage, his voice dreadful, his disposition perverse, and his manners ferocious; he is destructive and odious while living, and when dead, there is nothing valuable but his skin, which affords a warm and comfortable fur.

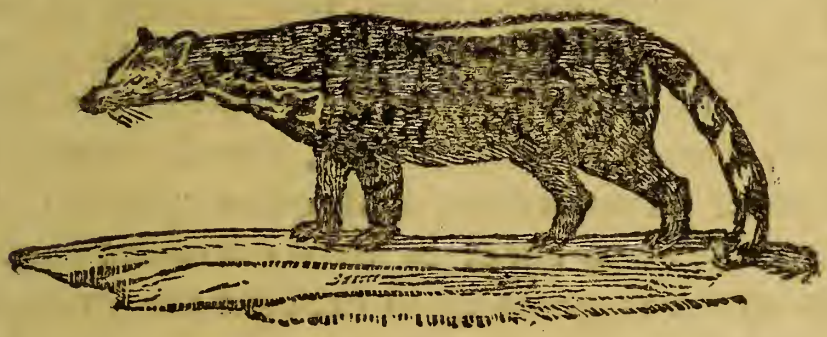


VIVERRA.

Cutting teeth six, sharpish; Canine teeth longer; Grinders more than three; Tongue in some smooth, in others acculated backwards; Body of a lengthened form.

CIVET.

VIVERRA CIVETTA. { *Ash-coloured, spotted with black, with chesnut-coloured mane, and dusky tail spotted towards the base.*



THE general colour of the body is ash grey, marked with large blackish or dusky spots, disposed in longitudinal vows on each side; the hair is course, and along the top of the back stands up, particularly when the animal is irritated, so as to form a sort of mane. The head is of a lengthened or Spanish form, with short rounded ears black on the outer side. The tip of the nose, the sides of the face, chin, breast, legs, and feet, are black, the re-

mainder of the face and parts of the sides of the neck are of a yellowish white; from each ear are three black stripes, terminating at the throat and shoulders; tail black, and marked with a few pale spots on each side the ears. The Civet is a native of Africa, and in many particulars resembles the Zibet, which is a native of India, and indeed so much so, that they scarcely can be considered as distinct species. It will not breed in more temperate regions, though it lives and appears in perfect health: in its own climate it is very prolific. It is active and nimble, and runs very swiftly; it feeds on small animals, but particularly birds, which it takes by surprize; and it sometimes commits depradations among the poultry, when it can steal into a farm-yard. In confinement, its favourite food is boiled meat, eggs, birds, small animals, and fish. It is remarkable for the production of the drug called civet, (sometimes eroneously confounded with musk.) This substance is a secretion, formed in a large double glandular receptacle, situated at some little distance beneath the tail, and which the animal empties spontaneously. When the Civet Cats are kept in a state of confinement, (as is usual with the perfumers at Amsterdam, and other places) they are placed, from time to time, in strong wooden cages or receptacles so constructed as to prevent the creature from turning round, and biting the person collecting the secreted substance. This operation is performed twice a week, and about a dram obtained each time: it is done by scraping out the civet with a small spatula or spoon. This substance is of a yellowish colour, and of the consistence of an unquent; of an extremely strong and even unpleasant odour, when fresh, so as sometimes to cause giddiness and headach. The civet procured from Amsterdam, is less adulterated, and therefore held in higher estimation than that from India and the Levant. Its general value in Holland is 50s. an ounce, but it varies very consider-

ably. Civet, though an article in the more ancient *Materia medica*, and though still employed by the oriental physicians, is in Britain chiefly used as a perfume. It has a very fragrant smell, more grateful, yet in some measure resembling musk.

GENET.

VIVERRA GENETA. { *Fulvous grey, with the body marked with rows of black spots, and annulated tail.*

THE Genet is one of the most beautiful animals of this genus; it is about the size of a male cat, but is of a longer form, with a sharp pointed snout, upright ears, slightly pointed, and very long tail; the colour is commonly a pale reddish grey, with a black or dusky line running along the back, where the hair is rather longer than on the other parts, and forms the appearance of a very slight mane. Along the sides of the body run several rows of roundish black spots, which sometimes incline a little to a square form; the muzzle is dusky; beneath each eye is a white spot: the cheek, sides of the neck, and the limbs, are spotted in a proportionally smaller pattern than the body, and the tail is annulated with black. The Genet is an animal of a mild disposition and easily tamed: it is found in the western part of Asia, Spain, and France, in which last it is far less elegantly and distinctly spotted than those from Asia. In various parts of the east, as well as at Constantinople, it is domesticated like the cat, and is said to be equal, or superior to that animal, in cleaning houses from rats and mice: it is a cleanly animal, and smells slightly of musk.

RACOON.

URSUS LOTOR. { *The tail annulated, a black stripe across the eyes.*

THE Racoon is an animal of about the same size as a small badger; its body is short and bulky; its fur is fine, long, thick, blackish at the surface, and grey towards the bottom. Its head is like that of the fox, but its ears are round and shorter; its eyes are large, of a yellowish green, and over them there is a black and transverse stripe. Its snout is sharp; its tail is thick, but tapering towards a point, and marked alternately long as the body. Its fore-legs are much shorter than the hind ones, and both are armed with five strong sharp claws.

This animal uses its paws to hold its food while eating; and its pointed claws enable it to climb trees with great dexterity. It runs up the trunk with the same swiftness that it moves over the plain, and frolics about to the extremity of the branches with great security and ease; on the ground, indeed, it rather bounds than runs, and its motions, though oblique, are yet always quick and expeditious.

The Racoon is a native of the southern countries of America and the West Indies, nor has it ever yet been found in any part of the Old Continent.

COATI.

The animal of which we are now about to treat, many authors have called *Coati-mondi*. It is very different from the animal described in the preceding article, being of a smaller size than the racoon. Its body, neck, head, and nose, are of a more lengthened form. Its upper jaw is an inch, or an inch and a half longer than the lower one; and its snout, which is moveable in every division, turns up at the point. The eyes of the Coati are also smaller than the eyes of the racoon; its hair is longer and coarser, its legs are shorter, and its feet longer; but, like the racoon, its tail is diversified with red; and to all its feet there are five claws.

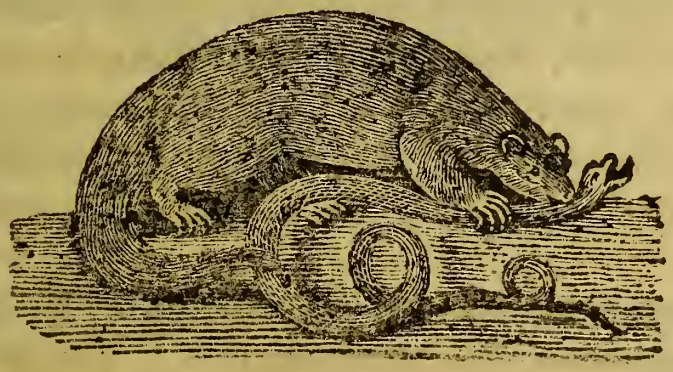
This animal has a practice of eating its own tail, which, when not mutilated, is longer than its body, and which it generally raises aloft, and can move with ease in any direction.

From this circumstance we may infer, that in those parts, of which the extremities are consequently very remote from the seat of the senses, that feeling must be weak, and the more so, the greater the distance and the smaller the part.

As for the Coati, in other respects, it is an animal of prey, which subsists on flesh and blood, and, like the fox, destroys small animals and poultry, hunts for the nest of little birds, and devours their eggs; and it is probably from this conformity of disposition, that some authors have considered the Coati as a species of small fox.

ICHNEUMON.

VIVERRA ICHNEUMON. { *The tail thick at the base, tapering to the apex, which is tufted; the inner toes somewhat distant from the rest.*



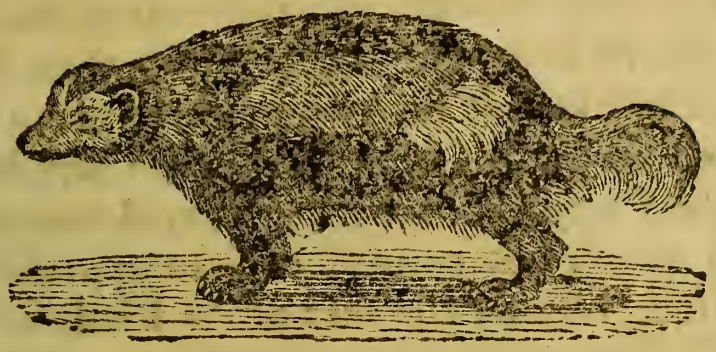
THIS animal is domestic in Egypt, like our cat; and like it, is serviceable in destroying rats and mice; but its inclination for prey, and its instinct is much stronger, and more extensive than that of the cat, for it hunts alike, birds, quadrupeds, serpents, lizards, and insects. It attacks every living creature in general, and feeds entirely on animal flesh. Its courage is equal to the sharpness of its appetite: it is neither frightened at the anger of the dog, nor the malice of the cat, nor even dreads the bite of the serpent. It pursues them with eagerness, seizes on, and kills even the most venomous of them. As soon as it begins to feel the impression of their venom, it immediately searches for antidotes, and particularly a root that the Indians call by its name, and which, they say, is one of the most powerful remedies in nature against the bite of the viper. It sucks the eggs of the crocodile, as well as those of fowls and birds. It also kills and feeds on very young crocodiles, and as fable sometimes accompanies truth, it has been currently reported that, by virtue of

this antipathy, the Ichneumon enters the body of the crocodile when it is asleep, and never departs till it has devoured its entrails.

Naturalists have supposed that there are many kinds of Ichneumons, because there is a difference in their size and in the colour of their hair. If we consider, however, that being frequently reared in houses, they have like other domestic animals undergone varieties, we shall readily perceive, that this diversity of colour and this difference of size, only points out simple varieties, not sufficient to constitute a separate species. It also appears that the Ichneumons in Egypt, which may be called domestic, are larger than those in India, which are in a wild state.

The Ichneumon lives very willingly, by the sides of rivers, inundations, and other waters. It quits its habitation to seek its prey near habitable places. It sometimes carries its head erect, shortens its body before, and raises itself like a serpent: it often sits upon its hind feet, and oftener springs upon its prey: its eyes are lively, and full of fire; its aspect is beautiful, the body very active, the legs short, the tail thick and very long, and the hair rough and bristly. Both male and female have a remarkable orifice, independent of the natural passages. It is a kind of pocket, to refresh itself when too hot. Its nose is very sharp, and its mouth narrow, which prevents it from seizing and biting any thing very large; but this defect is amply compensated by its agility, courage, and by its power. It very easily strangles a cat, although much bigger and stronger than itself. It often too fights with dogs of every size, and for the most part obtains the victory.

GLUTTON.



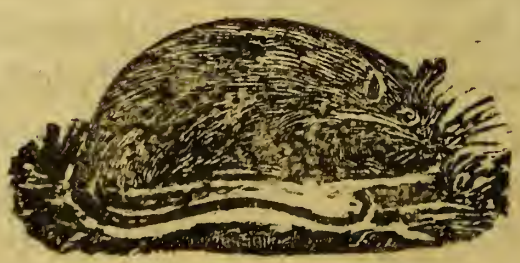
Linnæus ranks this animal among the weasels, from the length of its body, the shortness of its legs, the softness of its fur, and its insatiable appetite; from which last quality it has received its name. The legs are extremely short in proportion to its size. The fur, which is held in the highest estimation, on account of its softness and beautiful gloss, is black along the back, and of a reddish brown on the sides. Its conformation enables it to climb up trees with greater facility than to proceed along the ground; and consequently it catches its prey rather by surprise than pursuit.

In North America, this voracious creature is frequently seen lurking among thick branches of trees, on purpose to seize deer and other animals. Endued with perseverance equal to its rapacity, it will watch in silent expectation, for several days successively; but no sooner does its prey come within its reach, than it drops with unerring aim on its victim, fastens its claws between the shoulders, and obstinately retains its hold till it has eaten through the neck, and opened the large blood vessels.

It is astonishing to consider how much flesh one of these animals is capable of devouring at a time; Klein mentions one, which, though in captivity and labouring under ill health, daily devoured a great deal of flesh, and yet re-

mained unsatisfied. Indeed the Glutton will eat such immoderate quantities, that its belly becomes distended, and its whole form in a great measure altered; but, like all epicures, it is seized with lassitude after its meal, and will sometimes lie in a state of torpidity close to the animal which it has killed, for two or three days together. Thus reduced to a state both loathsome and helpless, it derives its chief security from the horrid stench which it exhales, and which few animals care to approach.

The Glutton, like all the rest of its kind, is a solitary animal, and is never seen in company, except with the female, which produces two or three young at a time. They burrow in holes, and are very resolute in defence of their offspring, fighting against dogs with the greatest obstinacy, and biting with the most tenacious grasp. The hunters, however, pursue them with much animation for the sake of their furs, which possess the most beautiful lustre imaginable, and are preferred for some uses to all others, except those of the Siberian fox and the sable.



OF THE MONKEY TRIBE.

SAMIA.

Fore teeth in each jaw, four standing close; Canine teeth solitary, longer than the fore teeth, close to the grinders in the upper jaw, and to the fore teeth in the under; The grinders obtuse; Four hands.

Apes of all animals have the nearest resemblance to man, in the figure of the body, and in the structure of its parts. The face is in general smooth. Both eye-lids are furnished with ciliæ; the external ear is exceedingly like the human; but they differ from him sufficiently in their prominent faces and long muzzles; in the particular bones in which the fore teeth are inserted, and in their lips, which are thin and turned inwards. Some of them have the *buccæ saccatæ*, or a sort of pouch in the cheeks for holding their food; and many have likewise callosities on their buttocks.

All Apes are natives of the country between the tropics. They go in troops, and feed chiefly on fruits and grain; some of them however on animal matters. Their natural drink is water. The females of many Apes are subject to a menstrual discharge.

This genus is divided into four sections, viz.

1. Apes without a tail, or *Apes* properly so called.
2. Apes with a short tail, or *Baboons*.
3. Apes with a long tail, or *Monkeys*.
4. Apes with a prehensile tail, or *Sapajous*.

More than fifty species of Monkies have been discovered and traced by naturalists; indeed the tropical countries swarm with them, and every forest is inhabited by a different kind. Being generally of a diminutive size, they rather amuse by their tricks, than alarm by their numbers or their powers. They are easily restrained by correction; and when reduced to a state of captivity, soon begin to exercise their sportive mimicries. In their native haunts, however, where men seldom intrude, when they find an unprotected individual, they immediately commence their petty hostilities, chatter round him, and throw withered branches of trees, and even their own excrements, at his head. Nevertheless, the hunting of them affords no little diversion to sportsmen, who destroy numbers of them, not for any purpose of utility, but from wanton cruelty: a barbarous pastime, which can only furnish pleasure to vacant and uncultivate minds, and is wholly indefensible.

MAGOT,

Or Barbary Ape.

Of all the Apes which have no tail, this animal can best endure the temperature of our climate. We have kept one these many years. In the summer, it remained in the open air with pleasure; and in the winter, might be kept in a room without fire.

It was filthy, and of a sullen disposition. It equally made use of grimace to shew its anger, or express its sense of hunger. Its motions were violent, its manner awkward, and its physiognomy rather ugly than ridiculous. Whenever it was offended, it grinned and shewed its teeth. It put whatever was given to it into the pouches on each side of its jaws, and commonly ate every thing that was offered to it, except raw flesh, cheese, and whatever was of a fermentive nature. When it slept, it was fond of roosting on a wooden or iron bar. It was always kept chained; for, notwithstanding its long subjection, it was neither civilized nor fond of its keeper. It appeared to have been but badly educated, for I have seen others of the same kind who were more sagacious, obedient, gayer, and so tractable, as to be taught to dance, and suffer themselves quietly to be clothed and dressed.

This Ape is about two feet and an half, or three feet high, in its erect posture; but the female is not so large as the male. It rather chuses to walk on all fours than erect. When it sleeps, it is almost always sitting. There are two very prominent callosities on its posteriors. It differs also from the *pithecos*; *first*, in the form of its snout, which is thicker and longer, like that of a dog;

whereas, the pithecos has a flat visage, like the human. *Secondly*, in having long canine teeth; instead of which he pithecos has them no longer in proportion than those of a man. *Thirdly*, in its nails, which are neither so flat, nor so round; and in short, it is larger, and of a more sullen and untractable disposition than the others.

It is probably this kind of monkey, w hich Robert Lade speaks of in the following terms: "We travelled over a great mountain at the Cape of Good Hope, where we diverted ourselves with hunting the large apes, with which it abounds. I am not able to represent all the tractableness of these animals which pursued us, nor the swiftness and impudence with which they returned to us after we had driven them away. Sometimes they suffered us to approach so near them, that, stopping almost close to one of them to take my observations, I thought myself certain of securing him, when, taking a sudden leap, he sprung above ten paces from me, and climbed up a tree with the greatest agility. They remained afterwards very quiet, and looked at us as if they were pleased with our astonishment. There were some so exceedingly large, that if they had been of a ferocious nature, our number would not have been sufficient to secure us from their attacks. As it would have been needless to have killed these animals, we made no use of our guns; but the captain, thinking to wound one of them, which was seated on a tree, after a long pursuit, had no sooner presented his piece, than the animal, probably from the remembrance of the execution of some of his companions in the same manner, was so greatly terrified at it, that it fell almost motionless at our feet, and being stunned in the fall, we had not the least trouble to secure it. When it revived, however, we had occasion for all our strength and address to keep it, defending itself by biting those who were near it, which obliged us to bind our handkerchiefs over its head."

Among some savage nations, Apes are considered the principal divinities, and temples are erected to their honour. When the Portuguese plundered an erection of this kind in Ceylon, they found the tooth of an Ape in a small golden casket, which the natives held in such veneration, that they offered 700,000 ducats for its redemption; but the viceroy rejected this offer, as favouring of idolatry, and ordered the precious relic to be burnt.

BABOON.

The Baboon, properly so called, has a pouch on each side of its cheeks. It has callosities on its posteriors, which are naked and of a red colour. Its tail is crooked and thick, and about seven or eight inches long. The canine teeth are much thicker and longer than those of men. Its snout is very thick, and very long; its ears naked; its body and limbs are strong, thick, and short. Its hair is long and thick, of a reddish brown colour, and pretty uniform over the whole body. It walks oftener on all fours than upright, and is from three to four feet high; but there seem to be different sizes of these animals. The female brings forth usually but one at a time, which she carries in her arms, and in a peculiar manner clinging to her breast. In other respects, these Baboons, although mischievous and ferocious, are not carnivorous; for they feed principally upon fruits, roots, and corn: they generally herd together, and sally forth to commit their depredations on the neighbouring vineyards or orchards. "As they are extremely fond of grapes, apples, and ripe fruit, they assemble together in great numbers, proceed on their enterprize with previous deliberation. The dogs that are set on watch do not easily conquer these animals, as they are extremely active, and make dextrous use of their teeth and claws. On these occasions, a part of them

enter the inclosure, while one company stands centinel; the rest stand without the fence, a small distance from each other, and form a line, reaching all the way from the inclosure to the rendezvous, which is generally in some craggy mountain. Every thing being thus disposed, the plunderers within the orchard throw the fruit to them without, as fast as they can gather it. But if the wall or hedge be high, they heave it up to those that sit on the top, and they hand the plunder to those next their side.

SAJOU,

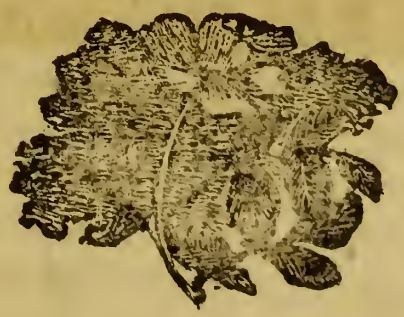
Or Capuchine Monkey.

We are acquainted with two varieties in this species; the brown sajou, commonly called the *Capuchine Monkey*, and the grey sajou, which only differs from the other in the colour of its hair: they are both lively, active, and very pleasing by their tricks and nimbleness: they are, however, fantastical in their tastes and affections: they seem to have a strong affection for some people, and as great an aversion at others.

CALLITRIX,

Or Green Monkey.

BUFFON calls this species the *Callitriche*, and Edwards the *St Jago Monkey*. It has a black nose, and red flattish face, rounded by long yellow hair, falling backwards, like a mustachio, and almost covering the ears. The body is principally covered with soft yellow-greenish hairs, but the belly is of a silvery hue. This elegant Monkey is about the size of a cat, and is extremely agile and inoffensive; it inhabits various parts of Africa, the Cape de Verd Islands, and the East-Indies.



SAIMIRI.

THE Saimiri is commonly known by the name of the *Golden, Orange-coloured,* or *Yellow Sapajou.* It is frequent in Guinea. By its air, size, the brilliant colour of its coat, fulness and brightness of its eyes, and its small round visage, the Saimiri has ever taken the lead of every other sapajou. It is, in fact, the most beautiful and delicate of the kind, and the most delicate to transport and preserve in other countries. Its tail, without being absolutely useless and weak, like that of the sagoin, is also not so muscular as that of the sapajou. Its tail may be said to be but half-holding; and though it uses it in climbing trees, yet it can neither strongly hold, nor firmly fix itself with it. It is scarcely more than ten or eleven inches. It sits long erect on its hinder feet with great ease; but it walks commonly on all fours.

MONA,

Or Varied Monkey.

The Mona, or varied Monkey, is the most common of the Monkey tribe. We kept one of them alive several years. This alone is sufficient to prove it is not a native of the hot countries of Africa and India. In fact, it is met with in Barbary, Arabia, Persia, &c. The visage of this animal is of a brown hue, with a kind of white beard, mixt with yellow and a little black. The back is red and black; the belly and the hind parts of the thighs and legs whitish, though the fore parts of the two last are of a black colour. The tail is of an ash colour, marked with two white spots, one on each side, at its insertion. On its forehead the hair is of a grey colour, in the form of a crescent, and between the eyes and the ears is a black stripe, as there is from the ears to the shoulders and arms.

The Monkey is for the most part far more docile than the baboon, and not so sullen as the ape. It is extravagantly spirited, but not ferocious. The Mona is in particular susceptible of education, and even attached to those persons who take care of it. The one which we reared, would suffer itself to be handled by those it knew, but would often bite strangers. It was chained, but was desirous of its liberty; for, when it either broke its chain, or got loose, it would run away, and would not suffer itself to be retaken by any other person than its master. It ate every thing that was offered to it, especially flesh, bread, and its favourite food, fruits. The Mona is about a foot and a half long.

JERBOA.

JERBOA is a generic name, which we make use of to denote those remarkable animals whose legs are extremely disproportionate; those before being very short, and the hind ones very long. The head is sloped somewhat in the manner of a rabbit, but the eyes are larger, and the ears short and naked, though elevated and open with respect to the size. Its nose and hair are of a flesh colour; its mouth short and thick; the orifice of the mouth very narrow, the upper jaw very full, the lower narrow and short, the teeth like those of a rabbit; the mustachoes are composed of long black and white hairs; the fore feet are very short, and never touch the ground; they are furnished with four claws, which are only used as hands, to carry the food to the animal's mouth; the hind feet have but three claws, the middle one longer than the other two. When they move from one place to another, they do not advance one foot before the other, but jump, or bound about four or five feet at a time; this they do with the greatest ease and swiftness, holding themselves erect like bird, when they hop on the ground. They rest themselves in a kneeling posture, and only sleep in the day; in the night-time they seek their food like hares, and like them they feed on grass, corn, and other grain. They are of a gentle nature, but not to be tamed beyond a certain limit.

OF BIRDS.

CASSOWARY.

STRUTHIO CASUARIUS. { *The Cassowary with three toes, a naked crest, and wattles.*

THE Cassowary is a bird which was first brought into Europe by the Dutch, from Java in the East Indies, where it is only to be found.

The Cassowary, though not so large as the ostrich, yet appears more bulky to the eye; its body being nearly equal, and its neck and legs much thicker and stronger in proportion. This conformation gives it an air of strength and force, which the fierceness and singularity of its countenance conspire to render formidable. It is five feet and an half long, from the point of the bill to the extremity of the claws. The legs are two feet and an half high, from the belly to the end of the claws. The wing is so small that it does not appear, being hid under the feathers of the back. In other birds, a part of the feathers serve for flight, and are different from those that serve for mere covering; but in the Cassowary, all the feathers are of the same kind: they are generally double; having two long shafts, growing out of a short one, which is fixed in the skin: the beards, that adorn the stem or shaft, are from about half way to the end, very long, and as thick as an horse-hair, without being sub-divided into fibres: the stem or shaft is flat, shining black, and knotted below; and from each knot there proceeds a beard: the beards too at the end of the large feathers are perfectly black; and towards the root they are of a grey tawny colour; shorter, softer, and throwing out fine fibres, like down. Nothing therefore appears except the ends, which are hard and black; because the other part, composed of down, is quite covered: there are feathers on the head and neck; but they are so short, and thinly sown, that the bird's skin appears naked, except towards the hinder part of the head, where they are a little longer: the wings, when they are deprived of their feathers, are but three inches long: the ends of the wings are adorned with five prickles, which differ both in respect of length and

thickness, and bend like a bow: these are hollow from the roots to the very points, having only that slight substance within, which all quills are known to have: the longest of these prickles is eleven inches; and it is a quarter of an inch in diameter at the root, being thicker there than towards the extremity: the point seems to be broken off.

The part, however, which distinguishes this animal most, is the head; and which, though small, like that of an ostrich, does not fail to inspire some degree of terror. It is without feathers, and in a manner armed with a helmet of horny substance, that covers it from the root of the bill to near half the head backwards. This helmet is black before and yellow behind. Its substance is very hard, being formed by the elevation of the bone of the skull; and it consists of several plates, one above another, like the horn of an ox. Some have supposed that this was shed every year with the feathers; but the most probable opinion is, that it only exfoliates slowly like the beak. To the peculiar oddity of this natural armour, may be added the colour of the eye in this animal, which is a bright yellow, and the globe being above an inch and an half in diameter, gives it an air equally fierce and extraordinary. At the bottom of the upper eye-lid there is a row of small hairs, over which there is another row of black hair, which are pretty like an eye-brow. The sides of the head, about the eye and ear, being destitute of any covering, are blue, except the middle of the lower eye lid, which is white. The neck is of a violet colour, inclining to that of slate; and it is red behind in several places, but chiefly in the middle. About the middle of the neck before, at the rise of the large feathers, there are two projections formed by the skin, which are somewhat like the gills of a cock, with this difference, however, that they are blue as well

as red. The skin which covers the fore part of the breast, on which the bird leans and rests, is hard, callous, and without feathers. The thighs and legs are covered with feathers, and are extremely thick, strong, and straight; but the legs are thicker a little above the foot than in any other place. The toes are covered with scales, and are but three in number, for that which should be behind is wanting.

Thus formed for a life of hostility, one might naturally suppose that the Cassowary is one of the most terrible of animals. But nothing is so opposite to its natural character, nothing so different from the life it is contented to lead. It never attacks others; and instead of the bill, when attacked, it rather makes use of its legs, and kicks like an horse, or runs against its pursuer, beats him down, and treads him to the ground.

The manner of going of this animal is not less extraordinary than its appearance. Instead of proceeding directly foreward, it seems to kick up behind with one leg, and then making a bound onward with the other, it advances with such prodigious velocity, that the swiftest racer would be left far behind.

The same degree of voraciousness which we perceived in the ostrich, obtains as strongly here: the Cassowary swallows every thing that comes within the capacity of its gullet: the Dutch assert that it can devour not only glass, iron, and stones, but even burning coals, without the least hurt. It is said that the passage of the food through its gullet is performed so speedily, that even the very eggs it has swallowed whole, pass through it unbroken, in the same form they went down. The Cassowary's eggs are of a grey ash colour, inclining to green: the largest is found to be fifteen inches round one way, and about twelve the other.

The southern parts of the most eastern Indies seem to be the natural climate of the Cassowary. His do-

main, if we may so call it, begins where that of the ostrich terminates. The latter has never been found beyond the Ganges; while the Cassowary is never seen nearer than the islands of Banda, Sumatra, Java, the Molucca Islands, and the corresponding parts of the continent.

PELECANUS.

Bill straight, bent at the point, with an unguis or nail; the nostrils form a chink hardly observable; the face nearly bare of feathers; the feet in the centre of gravity, the four toes connected together by a membrane.

PELICAN.

PELCANUS ONOCRATOLUS.—*White, with a bag at its throat.*

THIS bird is much larger than a swan, and nearly of the same shape and colour, and inhabits Africa, Asia, and South America. Its neck is long, and the toes are all connected by webs. The chief peculiarity, however, of the Pelican lies in the enormous bill, and the extraordinary pouch underneath. The former is fifteen inches long, from the point to the opening of the mouth, which is placed at some distance behind the eyes. From the lower edges of the under chap is suspended a large bag, reaching its whole length, and said to be capable of containing fifteen quarts of water. This appendage the bird is capable of contracting or distending at pleasure. When empty it is scarcely perceptible; but, when the Pelican has been successful in fishing, it becomes dilated to an incredible extent: for the first thing which the bird wishes to effect in fishing, is to replenish its bag, and then to retire and feed at leisure. Tertre affirms, that it is capable of concealing as many fish, as would satisfy six hungry men.

The Pelican builds in desert places, and often at a distance from any water; but then it brings water to its young in its bag. More frequently it builds in marshy and uncultivated places, and in the islands and lakes; making its nest, which is deep, and a foot and a half in diameter, of carices, and lining it with grasses of a softer texture: it lays two or more white eggs, which it sometimes, when persecuted, hides in the water. It is afraid of man; it walks slowly, flies in flocks, and lives in society with other birds.

Wonderful as the conformation of the Pelican is, no doubt, it falls very short of the fables that have been invented concerning it. Struck with its extraordinary figure, mankind seem to have been willing to supply it with no less extraordinary qualities and appetites; and having found that it possessed a large reservoir, they were inclined to convert it to the most tender and pa-

rental uses. But the fact is, Pelicans are very heavy, sluggish, and voracious birds ; and possess no instincts but what are necessary for the preservation of the kind, and the supplying themselves with a sufficient quantity of food. However, they feed their young with macerated fish for a time, and tend them with affectionate assiduity till they are able to provide for themselves.

With all the seeming hebetude of the Pelican, it is not wholly incapable of receiving instruction in a reclaimed state. Father Raymond assures us, that he had seen one so tame and well educated, that it would go off in the morning, at the word of command, and return before night to its master with its pouch full of plunder, part of which it would unload for the proprietor's use and part it retained for its own sustenance. Gesner also tells us of a tame Pelican, the property of the emperor Maximilian, which lived upwards of eighty years and always attended his army on the march.

One of those Pelicans, which was brought alive to the Duke of Bavaria's court, where it lived forty years, seemed to possess very uncommon sensations. It was much delighted in the company and conversation of men, and in music, both vocal and instrumental. It would willingly stand, says he, " by those that sung or sounded the trumpet; and stretching out its head, and turning its ear to the music, would listen very attentively to its harmony, though its own voice was little better than the braying of an ass."

BALEARIC, or ROYAL CROWN BIRD.

ARDEA PAVONINA. { *With an erect crest of bristles, the temples, and two wattles naked.*

THE Balearic Crane was unknown, till we became acquainted with the birds of tropical climates, when one of the Crane kind with a topping was brought into Europe, and described by Aldrovandus as Pliny's Balearic Crane. It is nearly of the shape and size of the ordinary Crane, with long legs and a long neck, like others of the kind; but the bill is shorter, and the colour of the feathers is of a dark greenish grey. The head and throat form the most striking part of this bird's figure. On its head is a thick round crest, made of bristles, which spreads every way, and which resembles rays standing out in every different direction. The longest of these rays are about three inches and an half; and they are all topped with a kind of black tassels, which give them a beautiful appearance. The sides of the head and cheeks are bare, whitish, and edged with red, while underneath the throat hangs a kind of bag or wattle, like that of a cock, but not divided into two. This bird comes from the coast of Africa and the Cape de Verde Islands. When it runs, it stretches out its wings, and goes very swiftly; at other times its usual motion is very slow. In their domestic state, they walk very deliberately among other poultry, and suffer themselves to be approached by every spectator. They never roost in houses. But about night, when they are disposed to rest, they search out some high wall, on which they perch in the manner of a peacock. Indeed they so much resemble that bird in manners and disposition, that some have described them by the name of the sea-peacock. But though their voice and roosting be similar, their food, which is entirely upon greens, vegetables, and barley, seems to be somewhat different.

DAMOISELLE,

Or Numidian Crane.

This species obtains the different appellations of the Button-bird, and Demoiselle, or Lady; for no sooner does it perceive itself noticed, than it begins to dance, or curvet, and to exhibit a variety of gesticulations; but whether these antic tricks proceed from vanity or fear, is a matter as yet undecided.

The Numidian Crane is adorned with a crest of white feathers; but the rest of the plumage has a leaden grey colour, except some large feathers in the wings, which are darker, as are a few about the head and neck. Besides the crest, the fore part of the neck is covered with some black feathers composed of very fine soft filaments which hang down on the stomach, and give a degree of elegance to the whole figure.

STORK.

ARDEA CICONIA. { *White, the orbits and flag-feathers black; the bill, feet, and chin, red.*

THE Stork is a larger bird than the common heron, but its neck is shorter and thicker. The head, neck, breast, belly, and tail are white; and the rump, with the

exterior feathers of the wings, is black. The eye-lids are naked; the beak is long and reddish; and the legs are of the same colour.

The Stork so nearly resembles the Crane, that, on a primary view, they might be confounded together; but the former has a peculiar manner by which it may easily be discriminated. The Stork is silent, whereas the Crane has a loud piercing voice; it preys on frogs, fishes, birds, and serpents, while the latter shews a predilection for vegetables and grain. The Crane avoids the abodes of men; the Stork seems to delight in human society.

Storks are migratory and generally make their appearance in Europe about the middle of March, when they build their nests on the tops of chimnies and high trees. They are sometimes seen on the coasts of England, but have never been known to breed in this island.

As these birds destroy a great number of noxious reptiles, it is no wonder that different nations have evinced a predilection, and even a sort of veneration for them.

The ancient Egyptians paid divine honours to the ibis, which is generally supposed to be a species of the Stork, on account of its beneficial qualities. The Dutch to this day are very solicitous for the preservation of the Stork, which seems to have made itself a denizen of their towns, building on the tops of houses without molestation, and even resting familiarly in the streets; protected, it seems, by the laws as well as the prejudices of the people. Indeed there are few towns on the continent, the situation of which is low and marshy, that have not the Stork as an inmate; and every where it appears to be a favourite with the vulgar. There is a black species, the modern ibis of Egypt, and another found in America, which differs little from the common Stork.

SPOONBILL,

Or Shoveller.

PLATELEA LEUCORDIA.

THE most remarkable peculiarity of this bird is its bill, from the shape of which it derives its appellation. This member is of a bright shining black colour, and has its upper surface waved with dotted pretuberances; the whole substance being thin, light, and elastic like

whalebone. The plumage of the whole body, wings, and tail, is white; and the head is adorned with a beautiful crest of white feathers bending backwards. The legs are black, as are the thighs, which are naked half their length. In short, this bird has all the natural instincts, and the aukward form of the crane kind; living in the water, and subsisting on frogs, acquatic animals, &c.

The American Spoonbill differs from that of Europe, which we have described, in being of a beautiful rose or crimson colour. Beauty of plumage, indeed, belongs to all the birds of that continent; and, as in the present instance, is bestowed on one whose general conformation is very far from a standard of elegance.

This bird lays from three to five eggs, and commonly builds its nest in high trees, in company with the heron.

CURASSO BIRD.

CRAX ALECTOR.

THIS bird is nearly as large as a hen turkey. The bill is black at the point, and covered at the basis with a yellow skin. Between the nostrils is a round hard knob, resembling wax; and on the head there is a crest of long

black feathers, which project forward at the points.—The whole body is of a deep shining black, reflecting blue and purple shades, except the lower part of the belly and the coverts under the tail.

The Curasso-bird is frequent in Guinea, and contributes no small portion of their food to the planters. The flesh resembles that of a Turkey. It is easily domesticated, and is frequently found in the Dutch settlements of Berbice, Essequebo, and Demerary.

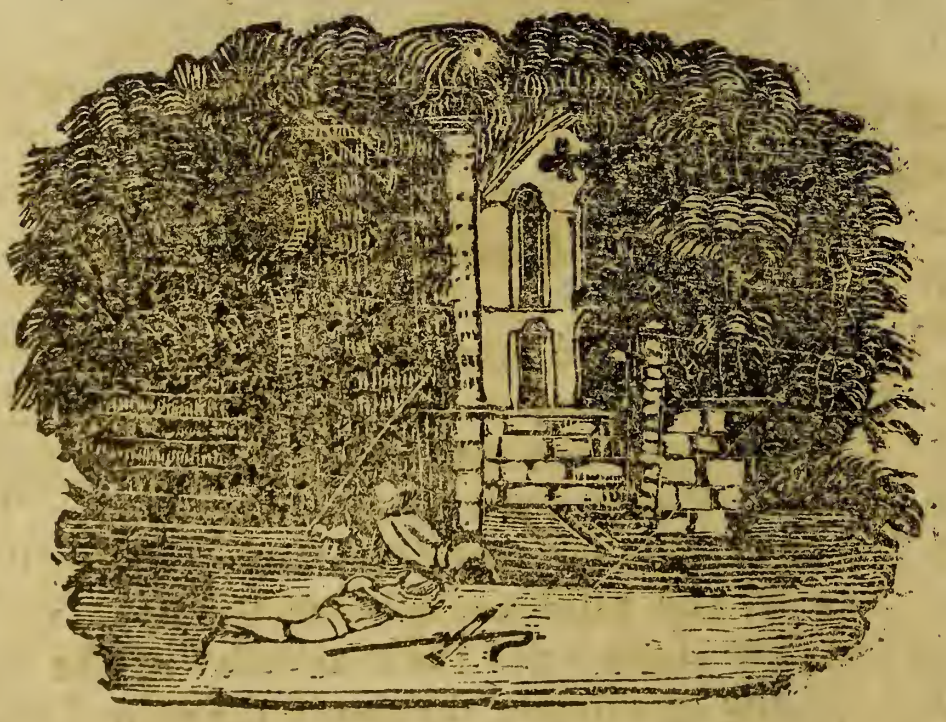
GREAT HORN OWL.

STRIX BUBO. *The body of a reddish colour.*

ALL birds of this kind have one common mark, by which they are distinguished from other birds: for their eyes, like those of tigers and cats, are formed for seeing better in the dusk than in broad glare of sun-shine. The pupil, in fact, is capable of great dilatation or contraction. By contracting it, the brighter light of the day, which would act too powerfully upon the sensibility of the eye, is excluded; while by dilating the pupil, the animal takes in the more faint rays of the night, by which it is enabled to spy its prey, and catch it with greater ease in the dark.

At first view, this species appears very large; this is, in a great measure, owing to the fulness of its plumage. Its horns, which distinguish it from all others, are composed of six feathers each, which rise about an inch high, variegated with yellow and black, and which it can erect or depress at pleasure. The breast and belly are of a dull yellow, marked with slender brown spots: the back and coverts of the wings are varied with deep brown and yellow.

This bird usually breeds in caverns, hollow trees, or ruined turrets. It is common in the north of Europe, and America.



PSITTACUS.

The bill hooked; the upper mandible moveable, and furnished with acere. The nostrils at the base of the bill; the tongue fleshy, obtuse, and intire; the feet formed for climbing.

PARROT.

This very numerous genus, which contains upwards of 140 species, is peculiar to the warm regions of both worlds. Though, in the figure of the bill, the birds of this genus exceedingly resemble the Accipitres; in their manners, they perfectly agree with the other genera of this order. They feed on the seeds and fruits of various plants; they are very docile, and by means of their obtuse tongue, as Pliny remarks, are able to imitate human speech; they lift their food to their mouth; with their feet they climb easily, assisting themselves, for that purpose, with their bill; and are among birds, what apes are among the mamalia. They associate in pairs; the male and female alternately sit upon the eggs; they attain the age of 130 years and upwards. In Europe, they sometimes lay eggs, but seldom sit on them. Some species are as large as a domestic fowl, while others are no

larger than a sparrow. In their native places, some of them are eaten. Alexander the Great first brought Parrots into Europe.

The genus is divided into two sections, viz. 1. Those species which have long wedge-shaped tails; and 2. Those that have short tails, with the feathers of equal length.

MACAO.

PISSITACUS MACAO. { *Red, the quill-feathers blue above, red below; the scapulars varied with green and blue; the cheeks naked and wrinkled.*

THIS species belongs to the first section, and inhabits South America. It is as large as a common hen, and its tail is two feet and a half long. It lives in palm woods, the fruit of which is its chief food. It breeds twice a year in hollows of trees, laying two eggs not larger than those of pigeons, but coloured like those of Partridges. The young ones are easily tamed, not so the older ones.

GREAT WHITE COCKATOO.

PSITTACUS CRISTATUS.—*White with a folding yellow crest.*

THIS and the following species belong to the second section, and inhabit the Molucca islands. It can erect or

depress its crest of feathers at pleasure. It raises it when irritated. It often repeats the word Cockatoo, as do several other species, whence that word has become a sort of generic name for these.

HOARY PARROT.

PSITTACUS ERITHACUS. { *Of a blueish grey colour; the temples naked and white; the tail scarlet.*

THIS species is one of the smallest, and easily learns to speak, and inhabits South America.

Of all birds of this kind, the Parrot is best known in this country, and is most admired; nor without reason, as it unites the greatest beauty with the greatest docility. Its voice more exactly resembles the human than that of any other bird, and it is capable of numerous modulations which even the tones of man cannot reach.

The facility with which this kind is taught to speak; and the degree of memory which it possesses, are not a little surprising. A grave writer assures us, that one of them learned to repeat a whole sonnet from Petrarch, and Goldsmith asserts, that he saw a Parrot belonging to a distiller, who had suffered considerably in his circumstances from an informer, his opposite neighbour, that could pronounce, in a very distinct and audible voice, "Though shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour." The bird was generally placed opposite to the informer's house, and greatly amused the neighbourhood by its persevering exhortations.

So numerous are the stories respecting the loquacious faculty of the Parrot, that they would form an agreeable

novel; indeed an elegant poem, called the *vert-vert*, has been written on this subject as a basis. We shall here introduce an anecdote from Willoughby, perhaps more entertaining than the generality of those, in which the Parrot is hero of the tale. "A Parrot, says he, "belonging to King Henry the VII. who then resided at his palace of Westminster, by the river Thames, had learned to talk many words, from the passengers as they happened to take water. One day, sporting on its perch, the poor bird fell into the water, at the same time exclaiming as loud as possible, "A boat! a boat! twenty pounds for a boat!" A waterman, who happened to be near, hearing the cry, made up to the place where the Parrot was floating; and taking him up, restored him to the king. As the bird happened to be a favourite, the man insisted that he ought to have a reward more equal to his services than his trouble; and as the Parrot had proposed twenty pounds, he said that his majesty was bound in honour to grant it. The king agreed to leave it to the Parrot's own determination, which the bird hearing, cried out, "Give the knave a groat."

APPENDIX;

WITH A FEW

PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS,

BY

S. POLITO.

OF BEASTS.

LION.

THIS noble animal was whelped in the Tower of London, when the late George Payne, Esq. was shepherd of his Majesty's Managerie there. He is remarkably muscular, though at present not so majestic as his sire, who went by the appellation of *Young Nero*, also a *British Lion*. He is perfectly docile with his keeper, but shews an unaccountable antipathy to the owner, S. Polito, all whose endeavours to gain his affection hath hitherto proved abortive.

ROYAL TYGER.

He was brought to this country in 1800, in the W. Pitt, East Indiaman, then quite young, and so perfectly tame as to be suffered to remain loose on the deck during the voyage. He is allowed, by good judges, to be the finest marked Tyger ever exhibited; he still retains a mild disposition, but at the time of feeding, he discovers his natural ferocity, and cannot be approached by any person.—This animal, like the lion, requires twelve or fourteen pounds of flesh daily. It is impossible for the keeper to show them after they have once partook of their prey.

He is of the same species with that which killed Mr Munro, of whose death we have the following account, in a letter from a gentleman to his friend at Calcutta, dated on board the ship, Shaw Ardasier, off Saugur Island; Dec. 23, 1792.

"To describe the aweful, horrid, and lamentable accident I have been an eye-witness of, is impossible. Yesterday morning, Mr Downey of the Company's troops, Lieut. Pyefinch, poor Mr Munro (son of Sir Hector), and myself, went on shore on Saugur Island to shoot deer. We saw innumerable tracts of tygers and deer, but still we were induced to pursue our sport the whole day. About half past three, we sat down on the edge of the jungle, to eat some cold meat sent us from the ship, and had just commenced our meal, when Mr Pyefinch and a black servant told us, there was a fine deer within six yards of us. Mr Downey and myself immediately jumped up to take our guns; mine was the nearest, and I had just laid hold of it, when I heard a roar like thunder, and saw an immense royal tyger spring on the unfortunate Munro, who was sitting down. In a moment his head was in the beast's mouth, and he rushed into the jungle with him, with as

much ease as I could lift a kitten, tearing him through the thickest bushes and trees, every thing yielding to his monstrous strength. The agonies of horror, regret, and I must say, fear, (for there were two tygers, male and female) rushed upon me at once. The only effort I could make, was to fire at him, though the poor youth was still in his mouth. I relied partly on providence, partly on my own aim, and fired a musket. I saw the tyger stagger and agitated, and I cried out so immediately. Mr Downey then fired two shots, and I one more. We retired from the jungle, and a few minutes after, Mr Munro came up to us all over blood, and fell. We took him on our backs to the boat, and got every medical assistance for him from the Valentine East Indiaman, which lay at anchor near the island, but in vain. He lived 24 hours in the extreme of torture; his head and skull were torn, and broke to pieces, and he was wounded by the claws all over the neck and shoulders; but it was better to take him away, though irrecoverable, than leave him to be devoured limb by limb. We have just read the funeral service over the body, and committed it to the deep. He was an amiable and promising youth. I must observe, there was a large fire blazing close to us, composed of ten or a dozen whole trees; I made it myself, on purpose to keep the tygers off, as I had always heard it would. There were eight or ten of the natives about us; many shots had been fired at the place, and much noise and laughing at the time; but this ferocious animal disregarded all. The human mind cannot form an idea of the scene; it turned my very soul within me. The beast was about four and a half feet high, and nine long. His head appeared as an ox's, his eyes darting fire, and his roar, when he first seized his prey, will never be out of my recollection. We had scarcely pushed our boat from that cursed shore, when the tygress made her appearance, raging mad almost, and remained on the sand as long as the distance would allow me to see her."

HUNTING PANTHER.

This animal was brought from Seringapatam. He is remarkably docile, and will admit of the utmost familiarity with the keeper, who can with safety expose his face to his rude caresses, and his hands to his claws, those formidable weapons, so necessary, in his native state, for the the destruction of his prey. Those animals Tippoo used to keep a variety of, for the purpose of hunting deer and antelopes ; and, wonderful to relate! after the chace, they are so trained as to return at the call of the keeper. Though more diminitive in size than the tyger, they possess wonderful strength and agility, and differ greatly in disposition ; the proprietor having been possessed of one, who was not to be subdued or tamed, so as to be fit for exhibiting.

HYÆNA.

Naturalists have almost universally agreed, respecting the nature of this animal, having a disposition which by no means can recommend him. The proprietor of this, however, has observed no such propensities in him, for he will suffer even strangers to rub him with a stick, or even their hand.—The jaws of this animal are so remarkably strong, that he can break a bone with as much ease as the lion. On some occasions he discovers his natural temper. When he erects his bristly mane, which extends from head to tail, his eyes emit as it were sparks of fire, and he otherwise discovers the most terrific appearance.

WOLF.

This is a most ferocious animal ; though long in the Tower, he could never be brought to any subjection. His disposition every way agrees with his well known character for rapacity, and unsatiable thirst after animal food, or indeed whatever else presents him.

MUSK CATS.

Of these there are three species in this collection, viz. the Civet, Zibet, and Genet. They are fed on animal food, Their perfume might easily be collected as is commonly done at Amsterdam, but they cannot here be attended to, from the great variety of other animals which more particularly require notice.

GLUTTON.

This animal is particularly distinguished for uncommon appetite ; being remarkable voracious, and of a solitary nature, which is the only peculiarities observeable about him.

JAVA HARE.

Here S. P. has been defeated in his enquiries after this animal, having only found that it answers the description of the Jerboise.

ICHNEUMON.

This animal S. P. has been in possession of these three years, and he is now become a favourite in the family. His agility is such, that he will spring from the keeper's hand to a considerable distance, but suffers himself to be taken, and replaced in his cage. This animal formed one of the Egyptian deities.

RACOON.

This creature is distinguished, for the peculiarity of washing the food presented him, before he partakes of it, which he performs with great nicety in his water cup.

MONKEYS.

Of these animals, it would be too tedious to give a minute account of all their singularities, and whimsical tricks; to see them at mess-time, is very entertaining, their love, jealousy, and little resentments, are then carried on with the most artful duplicity.

OF BIRDS.

CASSOWARY.

This stately bird comes from the island of Java, and is about the size generally described by Natural Historians, being nearly six feet high.

S. P. purchased the bird in London, 1802; since which he has grown amazingly, is perfectly tame, and very familiar with his keeper; feeds twice a day on coarse stale bread, greens, and gravel, of which he is very fond.

PELICANS OF THE WILDERNESS.

These singular and uncommon birds have been the subject of much fabulous narrative. Ancient writers have held them out as emblems of paternal affection. Buffon describes them as being sluggish and indolent. They are, however, we find, most sagacious and affectionate, of which we could enumerate many remarkable instances, but those shall be reserved for conversation with the spectators, admirers of Natural History.

The male was obtained from the Emperial Avery at Vienna, in exchange for two beautiful fancy birds. Their food is fish; and it is astonishing the quantity they will carry to their retreat, when in their native state, by

means of a pouch in the lower beak, which is so very elastic, as to astonish the spectators, by seeing the keeper exhibiting it over his face and head, in various forms as fancy leads him. This bird is distinguished by a formidable claw at the end of his beak, which serves to defend him when attacked; however, he never uses it, but when separate from his mate, then his resentment may be expected. His attachment to Mrs Polito deserves particular notice, with whom he will walk to and fro, with much seeming satisfaction, and will repulse with his beak, any unmannerly intruder into their company.

S. P. hence concludes, that this sagacious bird has been the favourite of some distinguished lady, attached to Natural History, at the court from whence he was brought.

CROWN BIRD.

This beauty, for such I must call it, is an emblem of nature's perfections, has a head-dress as elegant and variegated as a court lady. It is somewhat singular, that the keeper announcing the words, News, news, audibly, the bird instantly *imitates a post-horn*, thus, Hoy, hoy, hoy.

DAMOISELLES.

It had long been the wish of S. P. to procure them, by reason they are rare and seldom to be obtained; the graceful attitudes in which they move, affords a pleasing entertainment to the spectators.

THE STORK

Is so tame a bird, that he is by no means alarmed at the approach of strangers : was brought from Elseneur, in 1800.

SPOON BILL.

To try the disportive nature of this bird, a sea-gull was introduced, which he used most inhospitably ; but is now, as if through remonstrance, perfectly reconciled.

CURRASSO.

This bird very much resembles in temper, the Chinese pheasants ; it was at first very shy, but has now become so familiar, as to feed out of any person's hand.

THE HORNED OWL

Is easily distinguished, by large fierce eyes, and prominent horns.

THE PARROTS.

This collection is sometimes numerous, at other times few, as they become frequently an article of traffic.

Cleaning of the Beasts.

The *method* S. Polito adopts in keeping his animals clean, is by well ordering the dens, or cages in which they are kept, which is done in the following manner :

Previous to shutting up the caravans that contain them, there is a sufficient quantity of straw put in their places ; and, when opened again, it is all taken out by means of scrapers made for the purpose ; and then, by using long mops, or towels fixed at the end of some long handled utensil, they are washed with warm water, and well dried, which operation not only serves for cleaning, but also carrying off that disagreeable smell, which may be expected from a long confinement. Most of the animals are now well accustomed to it, and naturally move to one side of the den, while the other is cleaning.

Feeding of the Beasts.

The feeding of the beasts of prey generally afford no little entertainment to the spectators. The food is usually prepared for them, cut so proportionable as to go through the bottom of the iron bars ; it is then thrown up to them from a distance, and they seize it with astonishing dexterity. This is commonly done once a-day, about nine o'clock in the evening.

FOREIGN
BEASTS & BIRDS,
BOUGHT
SOLD,
Or Exchanged.